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APPROVED: 2/13/90

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Regular Session
Minutes of Meeting
December 1, 1989

The Maryland Higher Education Commission met on Friday, December 1, 1989, in the Blackistone Room, Anne Arundel Hall, St. Mary's College of Maryland. Commission members present were: J. Henry Butta, Chair; The Honorable J. Glenn Beall, Jr.; Barrie G. Christman; Gary Gamerman; Elmer Kaelin; Osborne Payne; and, Constance Cornell Stuart.

Staff members present were: Dr. Shaila Aery, Secretary; Dr. George Funaro, Deputy Secretary; Dr. Ronald A. Phipps, Assistant Secretary; Robin Radespiel; Janice Breslin, Dr. Joseph Popovich; and Ann Walker.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Butta, at 10:23 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 1, 1989 meeting were approved as submitted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Butta announced the appointment of Janice Breslin, Director, Student Financial Aid Programs, effective today.

Chairman Butta congratulated Dr. Edward Lewis, President, St. Mary's College, for St. Mary's selection as one of fourteen colleges/universities in the United States to receive a challenge grant of \$420,000 from the National Endowments of the Humanities.

Chairman Butta reported that he and Dr. Aery visited the Governor on the progress of the State Planning Process. The Governor asked Chairman Butta to convey to the members of the Commission his appreciation for the time they are spending to achieve a higher education system which is recognized nationally for its excellence. The Governor also confirmed his ongoing commitment to higher education.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Minutes of Regular Session
December 1, 1989

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dr. Aery reported that next week Commissioner Stuart will be assisting her and a representative of the Governor's press office in interviewing for the position of Public Information Officer at the Commission. Dr. Aery received 125 applications for this position. Dr. Aery hopes to announce the filling of this position at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Aery reported on the Student Financial Aid Study. There are two analyses being done at the present (1) an outside consultant is doing a functional analysis of the operations internally and (2) an outside consultant is doing a report on all alternatives and policy options on student financial aid. A draft report should be finished sometime in January.

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES - COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING

Dr. James Tschechtelin reported that in May the Governor asked the State Board for Community Colleges (SBCC) to re-examine the community college funding formula. There were four parts to the State Board's study: (1) level of State support - low State support has led to relatively high tuition, which creates a barrier to student access; (2) current statutory formula - the community colleges are the only part of higher education that has the level of funding actually specified in State law. The Governor is interested in changing this to be more flexible, so SBCC has requested only the additional amount that would reflect enrollment increases (\$2.8 million); (3) incentive funding - is recommended; these funds will be non-statutory and targeted to specific priorities. The State Board is recommending Project ACCESS, which would provide incentives to hold down tuition increases and a Challenge Grant Program, which would provide funds to colleges on a competitive basis to address Statewide priorities, such as increasing the supply of technicians; and, (4) special funding - is recommended for non-recurring expenditures targeted to Statewide priorities. An example would be an electronic network that would link colleges with an interactive video system that could be used by colleges and State agencies to provide effective and efficient training programs across the State.

Chairman Butta referred this matter to the Finance Policy Committee for review and recommendations.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Minutes of Regular Session
December 1, 1989

BRIEFING ON PROGRESS OF STATE PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Maryland Higher Education State Planning Process:

Dr. Aery stated that the State planning process is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of the Commission. Dr. Aery reviewed the planning process. She asked the Commissioners to re-examine the State goals and objectives, realizing that the State Plan will consist of the strategies to achieve those objectives. Dr. Aery stated that the Commission's job is to accomplish a coordinated Statewide Plan and a coordinated system of higher education that addresses the diverse needs of all Maryland citizens. The staff's job is to assist the Commission in the process and provide information the Commission needs to make informed judgments.

Dr. Aery reviewed the Statewide planning process chart stating that it is important to realize that the planning process is a continual one. The Commission will continually monitor the environment, regional and State needs, and the Statewide goals and objectives. The Statewide Plan will be a "living document", annually reviewed and revised.

Planning Calendar

Dr. Aery stated that the Commission must have public discussions on the State Plan regarding what needs to be added, what has been left out, and what is not important. The reorganization law in Maryland not only alludes to, it insists, that the planning process be continual. It directs the Commission to establish Statewide goals, both short-term and long-term, and it directs to review mission statements annually. The end results address the quality of the system and its responsiveness to Maryland citizens. The Plan is never complete and the process is ongoing.

Dr. Aery reviewed the State Planning Calendar. She reported that in January there will be an Education Policy Committee meeting at which there will be a session for public comment on environmental assessment, needs analysis, and policy issues critical to achieving the Statewide goals. Staff will give presentations on mission statement status, and specific recommendations or unresolved issues.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Minutes of Regular Session
December 1, 1989

The first outline will address the specific strategies and actions to address short-range objectives. Then a draft will be done to address institutional and Commission accountability. The Commission will make decisions on the outline of the Statewide plan and the accountability process will be referred to the Education Policy Committee. The State Plan and accountability process will be discussed at the May 8th Commission meeting and then the Education Policy Committee will start the process of monitoring environmental changes, State and regional needs, and policy issues.

Initial Assessment of State Environment

Dr. Aery stated it is important to identify changes and trends in the environment that can have an effect on higher education and to assess the environment continually.

Identified State and Regional Needs

Dr. Aery reported that staff is identifying State and regional needs, using material from the Statewide hearings and regional hearings, employer surveys, interviews with individuals concerned with economic development, and general educational and demographic data. This task should be completed within the next few weeks.

Dr. Aery stated she believes it is important to identify the State and regional needs for two reasons: (1) the Commission has the responsibility to ensure that postsecondary education is responsive to the needs of the citizens, and (2) that the Commission has the task of matching State and regional needs with campus missions and Statewide policies.

Statewide Goals for Maryland Higher Education

Dr. Aery stated that the legislation mandated the Commission to develop long-range and short-range objectives and priorities for postsecondary education and methods and guidelines for achieving them. The strategies and actions to address these objectives will constitute the State Plan.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Minutes of Regular Session
December 1, 1989

Policy Issues

Dr. Aery reported there are Statewide policy issues that are central to the achievement of the Statewide goals of quality, access and choice, and accountability. There are disagreements among campuses and segments as to the importance of policy issues, and there are disagreements on what should happen on these issues.

Update: Review of Institutional Missions

Dr. Aery reported that we are now in the process of discussing the mission statements with the segments with the goal of focusing and clarifying.

Dr. Aery stated that peer institutions will be taken out of current consideration of mission statements at this time and looked at as a separate issue.

COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Dr. Aery reported that the Student Financial Aid Study is currently at a point where we have a functional analysis of the operation. She reported that the consultant's report should be completed shortly and go to the Commission at their next meeting. There are three changes agreed upon by Commission members, the Advisory Council and staff: (1) allow a student with established financial need to receive both a General State Scholarship and a Legislative Scholarship, (2) consolidate existing memorial programs; and, (3) remove the 3.0 grade average requirement for renewing a Distinguished Scholar scholarship, and insert the following language: "Maintains satisfactory progress toward a degree according to the standards of the institution, as approved by the Commission". Dr. Aery requested the Commission to proceed with the three Legislative Initiatives. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

INFORMATION ITEM

Secretary's Report on Program Approval

Dr. Aery stated the program approval material in the Commission packet is for their information.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Minutes of Regular Session
December 1, 1990

Washington Research Library Consortium


Dr. Aery reported that there is a great deal of interest in the Legislature to place the library in Prince George's County with Maryland institutions encouraged to participate. Dr. Aery stated she will seek outside expertise to advise on the merits of Maryland's participation in the consortium and report back to the Commission.

1990 Calendar of Commission Meetings

Dr. Aery reported that the February 13th and March 13th Commission meetings will be held in Annapolis and the Chairman has requested that in the Spring a meeting be held at CEES and a meeting also be held in Western Maryland. With the exception of September, all Commission meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:23 a.m.


J. Henry Butta
Chairman

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
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Regular Session
Attended By:

Ms. Pat Sowers, Potomac Edison Company
George D. Peterson, Morgan State University
Dr. David S. Sparks, University of Maryland System Administration
Bernard V. Khovry, University of Maryland System Administration
Dr. Joseph Brandon, University of Maryland System
Jerry Y. House, Radio Station WMDM/WPTX
John D. Johnston, The Enterprise
Dick Myers, The St. Mary's Countian
Dr. Annette Ezell, Towson State University
Chris Cihlar, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Ms. Barbara S. Unkle, University of Maryland Baltimore County
Dr. James Tschechtelin, State Board for Community Colleges
Dr. Laslo Boyč, University of Maryland System
Norton T. Dodge, Cremona Foundation
James Antonio, St. Mary's College of Maryland

